

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CU-04 IO-14 PM-07 CIAE-00

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FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1582

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJ: ANOTHER BANNING: SASO MAY REGROUP UNDERGROUND

REF: PRETORIA 3701 AND PREVIOUS

1. BEN LANGA, BANNED SASO SECRETARY GENERAL AND PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR, VISITED CONGEN 12 OCT TO ADVISE OF BANNING OF JEFFERY MARTIN BAQWA, SASO FIELD WORKER AND DIRECTOR LITERACY PROGRAM, THUS BRINGING TO 13 NUMBER OF SASO LEADERS BANNED SINCE FEBRUARY. BAQWA ISSUED USUAL FIVE-YEAR ORDER AND RESTRICTED TO UMZUMKULU HOME. LANGA TOOK OCCASION DISCUSS HIS OWN BANNING, PLANS OF SASO LEADERS NOW IN BOTSWANA AND SASO FUTURE.

2. SASO NATIONAL EXECUTIVE WAS TO MEET IN PIETERMARITZBURG EVENING OF 12 OCT TO DISCUSS RE-STAFFING NOW DEPLETED LEADERSHIP. ALTHOUGH LANGA MAY RETAIN OFFICE, HE CONSIDERS IT IMPOSSIBLE CONTINUE WORK AS SEC-GEN UNDER BANNING PROVISIONS DETAILED PARA 4 REFTEL. HE FURTHER CONVINCED SAG DID NOT RESTRICT HIS MOVEMENT IN SA IN HOPES IT CAN MOVE ON HIS CONTACTS AND LESS WELL KNOWN ASSOCIATES.

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3. LANGA STRESSED THOSE WHO HAVE FLED SA WERE AMONG SASO'S MOST

MILITANT LEADERS. HE BELIEVES THAT SAG MOVES SINCE ORIGINAL NUSAS/ SASO BANNINGS (FEB 1973) WILL PROBABLY A) DISSUADE ALL BUT MOST MILITANT FROM ASSUMING LEADERSHIP POSITIONS; AND B) FORCE SASO TO FRAGMENT, GO "UNDERGROUND" AND THEREBY COVER ITS TRACKS. FOR INSTANCE LAGA SUSPECTS NAMES OF FUTURE SASO LEADERS WILL BE PROTECTED.

4. ALTHOUGH SAYING HE HAD NO SPECIFIC INFO, LAGA SUSPECTS SASO LEADERS NOW IN BOTSWANA WILL REMAIN THERE--POSSIBLY TO ESTABLISH OFFICE AT KANYE. HE UNAWARE ANY PLANS DEPART FOR EUROPE.

5. COMMENT: LAGA NOTICEABLY DISPIRITED AND UNCERTAIN AS TO SASO'S FUTURE. YET STRESSED REPEATEDLY THAT SASO STRUCTURE WILL PROBABLY FRAGMENT AND ATTEMPT CONTINUE ITS WORK "UNDERGROUND" THEREBY UNIFYING ITS MORE MILITANT SUPPORTERS. HE DOUBTS SAG WILL MOVE TO BAN THE ORGANIZATION SINCE MOST TOP LEADERSHIP ALREADY REMOVED AND SUCH AN ACT MIGHT BESTOW DISADVANTAGOUS "MARTYR STATUS" ON MOVEMENT THAT NOW FAST LOSING ITS ATTRACTION TO ALL BUT MOST IMPASSIONED MILITANTS.
HOLMES

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